

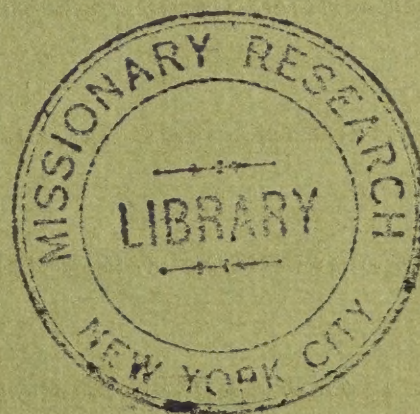
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# FOREIGN EXCHANGE

News from Abroad with Suggestions  
for  
World Fellowship Program

This Issue: **PLANNING FOR THE YEAR**



Foreign Division  
National Board, Y. W. C. A.  
600 Lexington Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

SEPTEMBER, 1939

\$1 A YEAR







## PLANNING FOR THE YEAR

This is the first issue of "Foreign Exchange," a subscription service furnishing recent information about Y.W.C.A. work around the world. There will be six or seven instalments each year, and a one-dollar payment will bring you all issues for the year, totalling 75 pages of news and program notes from the Foreign Division. - Order from the Womans Press

"World crisis expected last of August."

"Refugees flee across Dutch border."

"Child beaten by anti-Semitic schoolmates in B\_\_\_\_\_."

"Education is the only cure for democracy."

"Unemployment continues unabated."

These are samples of statements we read and hear daily. They directly affect us as individuals and the Y.W.C.A. as an institution, and during the coming year they will influence our programs and policies in clubs, classes and various committees. We present this bulletin of Y.W.C.A. news from all countries with these critical conditions in mind, and the material is grouped under the following headings to suggest its use in program:

The Y.W.C.A. Educates.

The Y.W.C.A. - A Cross-Section of Races.

The Y.W.C.A. Faces Its Social Responsibilities.

Some Thoughts on the World Community.

It is part of the World Fellowship Committee's job to make the world implications of these crises real to Association members, so before we present some of the illustrative material which has come to the Foreign Division on these subjects, here are a few program notes to help in its adaptation to your Association:

1. The World Fellowship Committee will want to understand the material thoroughly in order to recommend ways in which it can be used. It might be possible for each committee member to lead a discussion in the committee meeting on a question which the material suggests, such as:

- a) What evidences of spiritual life do you find in Japan, in China, in France, in Palestine, in India?





What seem to be the results of this spiritual life - how does it affect attitudes toward war, races, illiteracy, poverty, unemployment?

- b) What can we learn from India, Palestine and Malaya about the basis for racial antagonism?
  - c) What social conditions in our country are called to mind by the news from France, Jerusalem, India and China?
2. If the committee discussion suggested above is fruitful, these questions could be handed on to Girl Reserve, Business, or Industrial Councils for consideration. There may be committees such as the Public Affairs, Worship, or Membership to which one or more of the questions should be referred. The staff and board might find it stimulating to discuss what activities in China, India, Argentina, etc., could be profitably adopted by their own Association.
  3. Now, at the beginning of the year, the World Fellowship Committee, or those responsible for this aspect of the program, can sound out each department to discover what the major emphases for the coming months are likely to be. The committee members can divide the Association departments among themselves, each person being responsible for discussing plans for the year with one or more groups. On the basis of this knowledge, proposals for correlating such material as the following with the proposed club programs can be worked out. Sometimes it will be sufficient to inform program-planning groups that the type of information in this pamphlet is available, while in other cases the World Fellowship Committee may be called upon to prepare discussion outlines, dramatic presentations, or study courses which incorporate the material. It is well to avoid "putting on" a world fellowship program as such; try instead to show club leaders how to inject this material piecemeal into programs of various types.
  4. Two or three times during the year this "Foreign Exchange" will be devoted to "voyages" to a section of the world. In November, for instance, there will be a voyage to the Near East. Information about Y.W.C.A. activities in those countries will be used as a spring-board for investigation of the culture, government, history and world significance of the Near East. Three or four club meetings, based on the material which is given, will be outlined.

Later in the year there will be a voyage to another part of the world. It would be well to tell clubs now that this is coming, in case they wish to put aside three or four weeks for this type of program.

These voyages might also be made all-Association events, with information and discussion of problems related to the Near East scattered throughout the total Association program during a period of a week or two. Bulletin boards, exhibits, teas, evening programs and reading rooms could all be used for education about this group of countries.

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fellowship can be one of the tools for the creation of more world-minded, responsible citizens. What plans for the year has your Association made and what is the World Fellowship Committee's contribution to the year's program? (See "Programming World News" in the October "Womans Press" for further suggestions about committee planning.)

If you have suggestions for making "Foreign Exchange" more useful, or wish to obtain supplementary material, please write to the Foreign Division, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

#### THE Y.W.C.A. EDUCATES

##### In China

From Chengtu, Ruth Packard writes: "I wish you could attend the discussion which has been meeting every Wednesday for two hours. It is composed of about twenty-five young married women. Half of them have babies, although they look only about twenty or less. They have had middle school and some college, but their families are old style. For instance, one girl's grandmother didn't want her to come at first. They are all eager for discussion and to do something outside their home. For about six weeks they had a series on the development of the position of women through the ages, and went back to primitive society, digging assignments out of the library which the Y has started, and practically all participating by reports in the discussion. They had a series on the present crisis, its background, the international aspects involved, and their own responsibility in this new China.

"Wanting to do something practical, they organized a dramatic group and went out to Wenchiang, the national Y.W.C.A. rural center near here, for two or three days. They gave the play, called on village families to talk about health, community sanitation, the national crisis. When they returned they had a committee evaluate the project, wrote it up, detailing weaknesses, most of them due to their lack of experience with country people, and the article was published in a newspaper as a story of what women could do and how such a project could be better carried out another time. Now that group has added a short period of sports when it meets, playing volley ball for half an hour and discussing for two hours."





The new Association in Chungking reports: "Besides student relief work, the Association devotes much of its time to the education of illiterate women and children. It operates a people's school with an enrollment of more than 300 students, mostly family women. The full-time experienced teachers are engaged by the school to teach the students to read, write, sew, sing and exercise. A special weekly singing class is also conducted by the school, and a monthly entertainment, given by students of the school, has proved very popular among their family members and neighbors.

"For those who cannot attend the school because of personal or family reasons, the Association has organized four "visiting-teaching groups," composed of graduates of the people's school, to visit and give lessons at home. More than 120 duty-bound women are thus being taught to read and write this year. As the people's school graduates more pupils, the Association expects to extend its service even wider among Chungking's poorer women.

"A children's class of eighty students is also conducted by the school with the help of its advanced students. These waifs, who cannot go to regular schools because of family circumstances, are now given a free education under the auspices of the Association."

In Argentina The Buenos Aires Association turns to public affairs work. The following report appeared in the paper "El Mundo" this year: "An initiative new to the present is being started by the Y.W.C.A. in April. It is a department on Public Affairs. The name may be changed to express more adequately the meaning of the work of the department, if necessary.

"The work of this will be ample. The women will engage in discussions on the various aspects of the national civic and political life; it is necessary they know something about national happenings because of their children, and the influence which they have on their husbands and brothers, and the wide variety of interests which women have today. The necessity to have their members understand something of the happenings of today and to be able to form intelligent opinions - those that are built on conscience and with judgments that are fair and balanced - has caused this agency to plan courses on this important material.

"This new department will organize courses on civic instruction, debates on writings, and will have conferences on many themes of actual happenings; the classes will illustrate legislation on national, on political and civil rights and duties, and on sociology. It is interesting to note that up to the present the only agency that has touched the last subjects is that of the Catholic Associations under the direction of their founder, Monsieur Miguel de Andrea, for their members.

"The Association has 2,000 members and in its various classes and conferences reaches around 5,000 women. The majority of these women are professional and employed people and the possibilities of such a project are evident."

In Egypt Cairo girls learn to become Y.W.C.A. leaders, as described by Miss Evelyn Rabajotti, general secretary of the Y.W.C.A. in Cairo: "I had some encouragement on Sunday when before the Bible class, at tea, the girls asked me to start a Leaders' Training Course, as several of them want to take up Y.W.C.A.



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work. They said they want to replace the foreign secretaries! These girls were Greek, Syrian, Armenian, etc. - splendid girls. We drew up some plans at once. We are going to have a week-end conference at the Pyramids Camp, May 27-28, when we shall rope in some more leaders. Mrs. Fahmy, the president of the Social Service School in Cairo, has promised to find employment for such leaders in Social Service Agencies in Cairo. I thought they might give an hour or two a week and at the same time carry on a course of study here...."

#### THE Y.W.C.A. - A CROSS-SECTION OF RACES

##### In Malaya

"In its membership, the Y.W.C.A. represents a cross-section of the community in age, occupation and nationality. Twenty-two nationalities are found in the total membership of 557 members of whom 38% are Chinese, 5% Indian, 26% European, 4% Jewish and 20% Eurasian. The Y.W.C.A. is not an organization of one group of women, educated, cultivated, well-to-do, altruistically moved to 'do good to' a less privileged group, but is a democracy, uniting in voluntary fellowship the woman of leisure, the student, the business girl, the girl at school, for mutual service and for the benefit of an organization in Singapore which enables women of all nationalities, denominations, ages and occupations to cooperate on a Christian basis. We are glad to report an increase in membership during the past year." - From "Widening Horizons," Singapore Y.W.C.A.

##### In India

"It was with satisfaction that the National Committee reported to the Quadrennial Conference that while nationality and racial groupings within all organizations must be recognized, such distinctions are no longer regarded as fundamental in the Y.W.C.A. Although the complete integration of all the groups represented in our membership is not yet an accomplished fact within every local Association, it is a fact that the oneness of the membership is accepted. This is another indication that the indigenous movement towards which we set our faces at the last Quadrennial Conference is fast becoming a reality. Relations within the membership are becoming more like partnerships, and we trust that the few Associations which continue to carry self-conscious and sensitive groups will gradually make genuine efforts to make integration possible and natural." - From "Every Member," monthly news sheet of the Y.W.C.A. of India, Burma, and Ceylon, May and June 1939.





Sosa Matthew writes in the "World's Y.W.C.A. Monthly" for July: "Every invader brought a new religion with him, and India, the land of many religions, created a problem which is said to be religious but which has its roots in race distinction. The present political situation and the different religions divide the nation into communities, and this division is the greatest problem in modern India. The Hindu-Muslim fight is a very severe struggle and, being on the increase, is the biggest barrier towards a united India. Change of religion in India results in change of community too.

"Race problem is primarily a color problem, and in the modern world the color problem is inseparable from other factors, social, political and economic. When the British came to India as traders, for more than two centuries the white and the black held each other in contempt. The attitude being mutual, no problem existed. It was with the propagation of imperialism that the race problem arose. Racial difference in itself was inactive until imperial ambition or religious differences began to function. Economic reason is the main cause for this struggle. All raw materials and economic resources are in the tropics and the white want to exploit them. In order to exploit him as much as possible, the cultured white always tried to keep the black at a certain level. In India the real race struggle is the result of imperialism, and so when that ceases the color problem too will disappear. This problem is created in South Africa and Fiji where the Indians have gone and settled down. The real question is economic competition and race is used for propaganda purposes. Segregation is encouraged, but there is strong feeling that it is unchristian."

In Palestine "On the boat to Australia, I met a young Jewess migrating from Palestine to Sydney. Her most treasured possession was a bundle of letters and photographs, worn with much handling. Among them was a letter from the members of a Keep Fit Class in Jerusalem, of which she had been a member. Each member had sent her a good-bye greeting, an Arab Christian in Arabic, a Greek member in French, a fellow Jewess in German and the secretary in English. 'This class was the only place where we could all meet as friends,' she explained. 'I went every week even in spite of danger, as it was good to know that there were friends even among the Arabs. Will there be a Keep Fit Class and friends in Sydney at the Y.W.C.A.? It would make such a difference.'" - From address by Ruth Woodsmall, "What Does It Mean to Be a World-Wide Christian Movement?", published in the "World's Y.W.C.A. Monthly," August 1939.





## The Y.W.C.A. Faces Its Social Responsibility

### In France

Idelette Perrelet of the national staff in France says, in the June "World's Y.W.C.A. Monthly": "For us members of the French Y.W.C.A. our special responsibilities are closely connected with our Christian responsibilities. To be a Christian implies the sharing of the treasure of faith, peace and joy which one possesses. But some circles of society seem to be shut to the Christian message. Why? Among the various reasons which one may give for this fact stands the 'social problem.' We all know that sub-standard conditions of work, long hours, low wages, crowded housing are serious hindrances to spiritual and religious development. Therefore, we should study the social problem.

"If we Christians consider working girls as our sisters, we cannot but resent the wrongs which are so often inflicted upon them: on the one hand, in their professional work some are obliged to lift too heavy burdens; in some factories there is a lack of protection from dangerous machinery; and, still worse, in many places there is a lack of respect for a woman's dignity. On the other hand, the home life of a working girl is not always happy, again because of social conditions, the deficiencies of which are felt in the family life of workers. Many of them live in cramped flats, consisting of one or two rooms and a small kitchen. Often this means that the father prefers the drink saloon to this crowded home. When the girl we are thinking of is the eldest of the family, she must help her mother when she comes home, tired after a long day in the factory. Sometimes her mother will ask her to stay at home during her holidays instead of having a pleasant time in a Y.W.C.A. holiday home or camp.

"Thinking of all these handicaps to the spiritual and even the moral development of so many of our companions, we include two social problems in the plan of study for our recent national conference, the subject of which was 'Witness.'

### In India

The Simla-Delhi Y.W.C.A. describes two fields of social service on which they have entered: "We have been in touch with fifty-seven employers and 115 employees during the year (in the employment bureau) who have paid registration fees amounting to Rs. 119/4. This figure by no means represents payment in cash for all the time spent in correspondence, interviews and telephoning, much of which can show no definite result; but we are rewarded when, from time to time, we are able to find a suitable post for a girl who is greatly in need of work, or to provide a really reliable nurse for some mother anxious about the care of her children. Children's nurses are still the type of worker chiefly asked for, but we can also place stenographers, and in spite of the unemployment problem it still remains true that no really competent children's nurse or stenographer need lack work at adequate wages.

"Another piece of pioneer work which the Y.W.C.A. has begun is to discover ways and means of bettering the present appalling condition in one basti in the city where 200 chamars are at present living. They make the embroidered Delhi shoes, and the numerous cases of bad eyes and ill-nourished children, the lack of drainage, paucity of water supply and appalling poverty due to slack trade in shoes so deeply impressed us that we felt that something must be done about it. It soon became evident that (a) the drainage and water problem, (b) the economic question and (c) health were all so interwoven that it was almost





useless to deal with health and treatment without tackling at the same time the other problems. The women were busy all day embroidering the uppers of the shoes and attending to the family, and they haven't time to spend two hours going to a health center or a hospital. Daily treatment for any ailment was impossible away from home, and as long as there was no drainage, and insufficient water, the dirt and flies would persist. Steps are being taken in the matter of a and b.

"Health and treatment - a definite start has been made in this direction. Two honorary women doctors, Dr. Sommer and Dr. Joshi, pay regular visits and examine the women and children. A daily worker gives milk and cod liver oil emulsion to undernourished children and treats eyes and minor ailments. Our plan is to establish the principle of having a district nurse for people like these leather-workers who cannot attend hospitals without serious economic loss to the family income. The payment of a part-time nurse, equipment, milk, medicine, cod liver oil, etc. will require a sum of about Rs. 500 per annum. We are grateful for all who have contributed so readily money and gifts in kind to this and the playground scheme and we trust that more citizens of Delhi with an awakened social conscience will want to share in this work."

The transport workers were studied at the Y.W.C.A. Summer School for Social Service. Delegates (both men and women) from India, Burma and Ceylon discussed the conditions of work of transport workers, and ended with the following recommendations as to steps which may be taken to improve conditions:

"(1) Publicity given to facts ascertained, leading to the formation of public opinion. (2) Agitation for reform, such as legislative reform, repeal of laws, enactment of laws. (3) Possible establishment of night-schools. (4) Possible opening of recreation clubs. (5) Possible provision, along with such societies as the S.P.C.A., of centers for treatment of animals when such are involved, as with tonga wallahs, Jutka men, ekka drivers, etc."

In Jerusalem "Nowhere has the prevalent distress and poverty been revealed more than in the work of the employment bureau. Many women and girls, some married and with families, have sought work in order to support their homes, but racial divisions combined with economic stress have made it impossible to find work for more than a few during the year. Others have been enabled to buy warm clothing at a very low price through the kind gifts of friends of the Association, and all have found a sympathetic listener and friend in Miss Awad, who has given much time and trouble to a difficult task.

"The Y.W.C.A. maintains its contact with other groups, through Bible study classes for Christian students in the Government Training College, Jerusalem; through physical education classes conducted in this same college, in the Jerusalem Girls' College, and also in the Government Girls' Reformatory Home; and through the various channels of service already mentioned in this report." - From Annual Report, 1938, Y.W.C.A., Jerusalem Branch.

In China The Chengtu Association also does social service work.

"The first of the month we had a two-day baby health project. The secretary in charge did very good committee work in preparation for it, securing the whole-hearted cooperation of doctors and nurses from the baby clinics and



...with health and treatment without touching at the same time the other problems. The women were busy all day embroidering the uppers of the shoes and attending to the family, and they haven't time to spend two hours going to a health center or a hospital. Daily treatment for any ailment was impossible away from home, and as long as there was no drainage, and insufficient water, the dirt and flies would persist. Steps are being taken in the matter of a and b.

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"(1) Facilities given to facts ascertained, leading to the formation of public opinion. (2) Legislation for reform, such as legislative reform, repeal of laws, enactment of laws. (3) Possible establishment of night-schools. (4) Possible opening of restaurants or clubs. (5) Possible provision, along with such facilities as the S.P.C.A., of centers for treatment of animals when such are involved, as with terran wallahs, hulka men, ekka drivers, etc."

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The Gungwa Association also does social service work.

"The first of the month we had a two-day baby health project. The women in charge did very good committee work in preparation for it, securing the wholehearted cooperation of doctors and nurses from the baby clinic and

hospitals. There was an exhibit of toys, clothing, proper bath and bedding arrangements, and health posters. Free vaccinations were given through the courtesy of the public health department of the mission hospitals. Five talks were given by doctors on pre-natal care, health, child psychology and training, nutrition and play. Over 1000 attended during the two days." - From letter from Ruth Packard, Chengtu, April 1939.

#### SOME THOUGHTS ON THE WORLD COMMUNITY

From India      Jawaharlal Nehru is one of the leaders in the India Nationalist Movement. He writes: "Science came to Europe with her rich gifts and Europe profited by them. And now Europe stands on the threshold of self-destruction by the weapons forged by that science itself. China fights for life against barbarian attack. Yet this will pass and China will be herself again after having passed through the valley of sorrow and suffering. That new China and the new India will necessarily have taken to science and her ways, but will they temper the ferocity of that science by the depth of their thought and by the new structure of their society?"

"It is good that India and China are drawing closer to each other again. They are different from each other and yet how much they have had in common. It may be that in the future it may fall to their lot to give something to Europe and the world which they sadly lack, and thus help in building up a saner, juster and happier world."

From China      Prayer by a Chinese Christian 1938: "O God our Father, teach us to pray all this time for our countries, China, Korea and Japan; for our statesmen and soldiers and people; for all who have control of policy; and for all who are leaders in the making of public opinion. Grant a new spirit in us, that in the midst of these national exasperations our search for the truth may be more earnest than our desire to guard our rights or establish our national prestige. Give unto us a greater reverence for facts and a greater horror of lies and misleading propaganda; and so stir up in us the spirit of our Saviour that each may see clearly in his neighbors and enemy what it is which makes thy love to abound towards him."





"We confess our sins as a nation and as a society. We have had the pride which claimed much from others and was less concerned with its moral weakness. We have not set first things first, but rather would have all things added unto us now; and then we have deceived ourselves that there was a rule of God's righteousness in our hearts. Strengthen in us, All-Father, the sincerity of our penitence, and help us to be faithful to our dear country and her great traditions.

"Grant unto us peace in our time; not the peace of bullies who have crushed down all opposition to their wishes, not the peace of cunning politicians who have lied their way to an empty success, not the peace of slaves who have lost their souls, but the peace of free men who have cleansed their hearts by honest requital for wrongs they have done, and who seek to build thy Kingdom of love and righteousness with labor and sacrifice and brotherly cooperation between men and states.

"And this we pray through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen."

From Japan      Across the barriers of national enmities a Japanese student writes:

"As both of us planned, we, the Christian students in Japan who are united with you in spirit, knelt down before God today. Having come back from the service, I am writing this letter in inspiration which was given from above.

"We are most sorry that you and we have to call each other 'enemies' just because we are put in this unfortunate situation.

"You and we have been believing One God, and been united in One Purpose and Common Prayer, why do not we open our mind and talk most frankly to each other! However, the time has not yet come when both of us express ourselves by 'words.' I only hope that you will understand what we have in our mind and heart, and that we shall understand you thoroughly and fully not by words but by our common faith. We know nothing but 'one thing,' that this calamitous situation must be annoying God a great deal. You and we, Christians in both countries, should feel responsible for the cause of this trouble. But don't a story in the Bible tell us that even a blind man was used to show God's glory? Why can't we trust God that he will turn the worst into Glory this time, too?

"The only thing you and we may be able to do together now, we believe, is to pray together. When we pray most quietly, most reverently and most devoutly, God will give us his revelation. Who can say that there will not happen miracles for accomplishing the ideal of the Kingdom of God as the old prophet said, 'the thirsty ground springs of water'? In order to 'come with singing' in victory, we have to unite more strongly and continue to pray together till our common purpose will be fulfilled.

"I firmly believe that the day when you and we offer our gratitudes to God and praise his name together will come before long.

"Although this was written with sincerest and warmest affection, it cannot be said 'well expressed' or 'well stated,' I know. Nevertheless, I hope very much that you understand what I want to say and mean to tell you here.

"May God bless you all!"











